"The Serpent Strikes!"

TALES OF HORROR

TALES OF TERROR

NO. 10
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Jetta
Mystery Comics
Fantastic Tales
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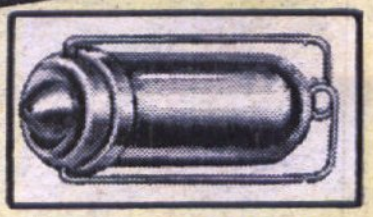
AMAZING JETEX #50 JET ENGINE



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A PURPLE CLAW MYSTERY

THEY CALLED IT THE VALLEY OF HORROR...! A NAME IT DESERVED BY THE NUMBER OF VICTIMS MYSTERIOUSLY SLAIN IN IT'S CRAGGY CANYONS! THEN CAME THE PURPLE CLAW TO TEST ITS BLOOD-CHILLING REPUTATION ...ONLY TO BE TRAPPED HIMSELF BY THE DEADLY SPINNER OF THE WEB!!

BROWN & GANTZ

THE PURPLE CLAW! ...INSPIRING SYMBOL OF MAN'S STRUGGLE AGAINST THE POWERS OF SUPER-NATURAL EVIL! GIVEN TO DR. JONATHAN WEIR, BY A GRATEFUL AFRICAN WITCH DOCTOR FOR STOPPING AN EPIDEMIC THAT THREATENED TO WIPE OUT HIS CONGO VILLAGE! ITS STRANGE POWERS TO COMBAT THE HORRORS OF THE BEYOND WERE NEVER TESTED MORE SORELY THAN WHEN IT STOOD BETWEEN DR. WEIR AND THE BLOOD-CURLING THREAT OF...

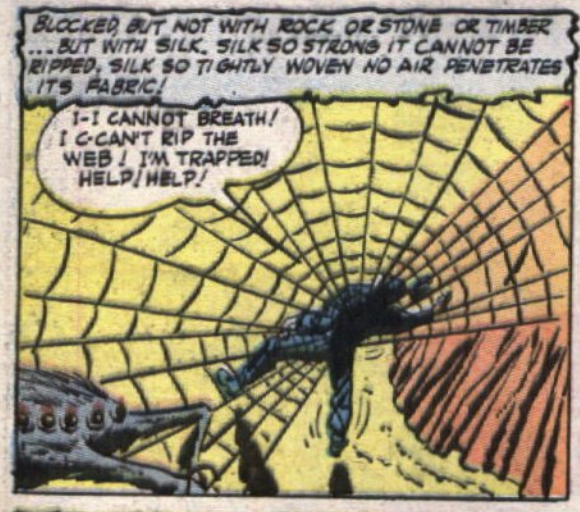
THE VALLEY OF HORROR IS NO TRUE VALLEY...BUT THE SIDES OF A CRAGGY RANGE SYSTEM IN THE ITALIAN ALPS, FAMED FOR ITS CLIMBING TRAILS.

ALL RIGHT, ENZO. IT'S SAFE TO ASCEND!

THE WEB OF HORROR...

THIS TOURIST MUST BE A STRANGER TO THE VALLEY OF HORROR FOR HE WHISTLES TO HIMSELF AS HE WALKS ALONG, HAPPY... NOT A THOUGHT IN HIS HEAD OF DISASTER, OF HORROR....
♪♪♪

SUDDENLY THE PASS IS BLOCKED!
GASP!


BLOCKED, BUT NOT WITH ROCK OR STONE OR TIMBER ...BUT WITH SILK. SILK SO STRONG IT CANNOT BE RIPPED, SILK SO TIGHTLY WOVEN NO AIR PENETRATES ITS FABRIC!
I-I CANNOT BREATH! I C-CAN'T RIP THE WEB! I'M TRAPPED! HELP! HELP!

THE VOICE IS MUFFLED WITHIN THE GOSSAMER THIN WEBBING—BUT NO HELP ARRIVES! ON THE CONTRARY...
MMMMM!

GASPING FOR BREATH AND WEAKENED BY HIS FRENZIED STRUGGLE TO FREE HIMSELF, THE MAN IS NO MATCH FOR THE TRIUMPHANT BEAST, WHO CLOSES IN...FOR THE KILL!
AA'AARAGGG!

BY THE TIME HIS FRIENDS REACH THE SCENE....
I-ISN'T THAT ITALO? H-HANGING IN THAT SPIDER WEB?
WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED?

LOOK!
BLACK WIDOW SPIDERS! L..LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

W-WE CAN'T! THEY'RE ALL AROUND US, ENZO THEY'RE ALL OVER US!
KILL THEM! THEIR BITE IS DEATH! KILL THEM!

!-IT'S NO USE THEY'RE... UGH!
GASP! ENZO I CAN'T KEEP THEM OFF!

YYYAAAAA!

AS THE DYING MAN DRAWS HIS LAST SHUDDERING BREATH, A MONSTROUS SHAPE APPEARS ON THE CRAG ABOVE. A SMILE OF AMUSEMENT HOVERS AROUND HIS ATROCIOUS MAW. A GLEAM OF TRIUMPH SHINES IN HIS EYES...

THAT EVENING, AS A DONKEY CART CLIMBS SLOWLY ALONG A VALLEY ROAD...
HOW FAR ARE WE FROM THE HOTEL NOW?
ANOTHER TWO MILES, SIGNOR. I HAVE TAKEN THE LONG ROUTE. THE WEBS HAVE NOT YET APPEARED ON THIS PATH!
WEBS? DRIVER, WHAT WEBS?

WEBS OF HORROR, SIGNOR. WEBS OF DESTRUCTION AND DEATH! LARGE ENOUGH TO CATCH MEN AND KILL THEM AS IF THEY WERE FLIES! WEBS THAT MUST BE SPUN BY THE DEVIL HIMSELF!
SO THAT'S WHY MY FRIEND ITALO ASKED ME TO MEET HIM HERE! HE SAID HE THINKS THERE IS SOMETHING SUPER-NATURAL ABOUT THIS VALLEY!

SUPER-NATURAL? WHAT COULD IT BE?
PROBABLY SOMETHING CONNECTED WITH THESE WEBS. ITALO IS A SCIENTIST WHO USUALLY LAUGHED AT THE OCCULT. HE BELIEVES THE SUPERNATURAL IS JUST PRIMITIVE FOLK-LORE OR PEASANT SUPERSTITION!

BUT HE IS WRONG! I HAVE SEEN THESE WEBS WITH MY OWN EYES... AND WHAT THEY HAVE DONE... MAY A MERCIFUL PROVIDENCE SPARE US FROM FROM THEIR DEVIL'S WORK!
I AGREE WITH YOU, FRIEND! I DO NOT SCOFF AT MYSTERIES SCIENCE CANNOT EXPLAIN! PERHAPS ITALO HAS CHANGED HIS MIND!

LOOKOUT! THE DONKEY IS CAUGHT IN SOME-THING!
I-IT'S THE WEB! WE'RE TRAPPED IN THE WEB!

MEN HAVE SAID THAT VICTIMS STRUGGLED UNTIL THEY THEY ARE EXHAUSTED AND CAN NO LONGER FIGHT THE DOOM THAT COME UPON THEM!
YOU'RE RIGHT THIS IS NO ORDINARY SPIDER'S WEB! IT SHUTS OUT THE AIR...! IT'S WEBBING IS LIKE STEEL!

WE ARE DOOMED! WE'LL NEVER GET OUT!
NO BY OUR OWN POWER-NO! BUT I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO COMBAT SUPERNATURAL DEVILTRY! MY PURPLE CLAW!

5,000 YEARS OF MANS TERROR OF THE UNKNOWN IS WRAPPED UP IN THIS GAUNTLET! ALL THE POWER OF WITCHCRAFT, OF SECRET INCANTATIONS IS CONCENTRATED IN IT'S MYSTIC FABRIC!

IT WILL DO ITS WORK AS ITS ALWAYS DONE! PURPLE CLAW! DESTROY THIS WEB! DESTROY IT AND LET US ESCAPE FROM IT!
IT'S RIPPING THE WEB TO SHREDS!
HSSSST

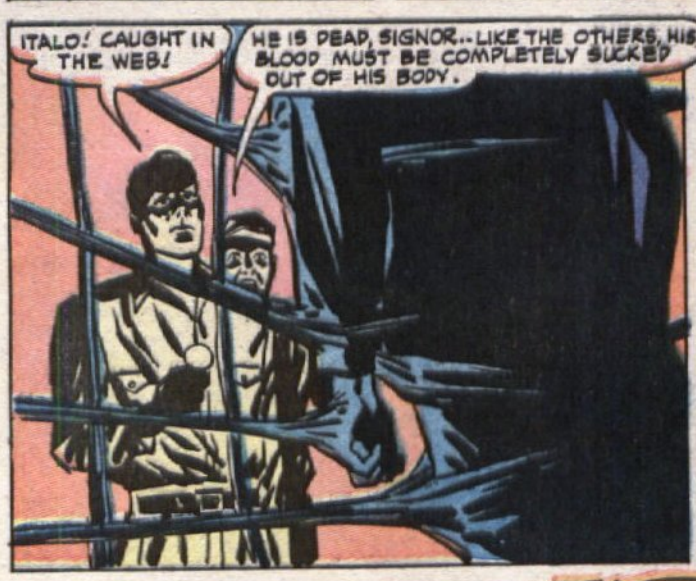
WE'RE PASSING THROUGH!...WE ARE SAFE!
THIS I HAVE NEVER SEEN BEFORE!

ARE THERE OTHER SUCH GLOVES, THAT ONE MAY BE PROTECTED AGAINST THE POWERS OF THE DEVIL?
UNFORTUNATELY THIS IS THE ONLY OBJECT OF IT'S KIND IN THE WORLD. I WISH ITALO HAD BEEN HERE. HE WOULD NOT SO EASILY SCOFF AT THE SUPERNATURAL...

LEAST OF ALL... THAT WEB! HOW DOES IT GET HERE? WHO SPINS IT? NO SPIDER IN EXISTANCE CAN WEAVE ONE THAT LARGE!
I DO NOT KNOW THE ANSWERS! I ONLY KNOW THIS IS MY LAST TRIP THROUGH THE VALLEY OF HORROR! WITHOUT YOUR PURRLE CLAW, MY WIFE WOULD BE LIGHTING CANDLES TO MY MEMORY!

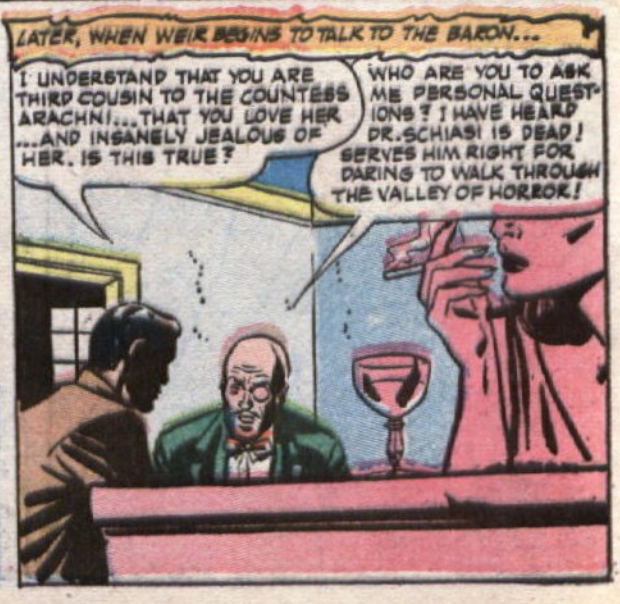
LATER... AT THE HOTEL....
YOUR FRIEND WENT OUT WITH TWO COMPANIONS. THEY SHOULD HAVE RETURNED HOURS AGO. WE FEAR THE WORST, SIGNOR. I SPEAK NOT NOT OF ROCK SLIDES OR FALLS..
I KNOW. THE WEB! GIVE ME SOME TORCHES AND A GUIDE. I'LL TRY TO FIND HIM!

AN HOUR LATER, IN A CANYON PASS.
DEAD! BOTH OF THEM! THEY'RE A HORRIBLE SIGHT! EACH MUST'VE BEEN BITTEN A THOUSAND TIMES BY BLACK WIDOW SPIDERS!
LOOK WHAT LIES AHEAD!


ITALO! CAUGHT IN THE WEB!
HE IS DEAD, SIGNOR.. LIKE THE OTHERS, HIS BLOOD MUST BE COMPLETELY SUCKED OUT OF HIS BODY.

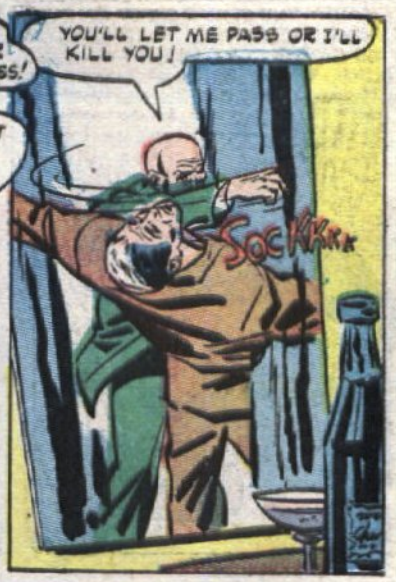
THAT NIGHT AT THE HOTEL
INVESTIGATION IS USELESS, SIGNOR. THE POLICE CAN FIGHT CRIMIALS THAT WE SEE... BUT HOW CAN WE FIGHT THE UNKNOWN?
SPEAKING OF FIGHTS, DID DR. ITALO SCHIASI MAKE ANY ENEMIES HERE?

WELL... I HESITATE TO SAY THAT BARON LATRO BECAME DR. SCHIASI'S ENEMY... BUT THE TWO OF THEM DID FIGHT LAST NIGHT.... OVER COUNTESS ARACHNI, WHEN SHE INVITED THE DOCTOR TO HER CASTLE THIS AFTERNOON!
THAT'S WHERE THEY SAY HE WAS GOING WHEN HE WAS TRAPPED BY THE WEB.


LATER, WHEN WEIR BEGINS TO TALK TO THE BARON...
I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU ARE THIRD COUSIN TO THE COUNTESS ARACHNI... THAT YOU LOVE HER ...AND INSANELY JEALOUS OF HER. IS THIS TRUE?
WHO ARE YOU TO ASK ME PERSONAL QUESTIONS? I HAVE HEARD DR. SCHIASI IS DEAD! SERVES HIM RIGHT FOR DARING TO WALK THROUGH THE VALLEY OF HORROR!

SCHIASI WAS A FOOL! I WARNED HIM ABOUT THE SUPERSTITIONS ...THAT BLACK WIDOW SPIDERS ABOUND IN THIS REGION. THAT MANY MEN DIED MYSTERIOUSLY IN GIANT WEBS! HE LAUGHED AT ME!
YOU FOUGHT WITH HIM OVER THE COUNTESS! YOU WERE HEARD THREATENING HIM.

WHAT IF I DID? WHAT DOES THAT PROVE? I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOUR STUPID QUESTIONING... LET ME PASS!
NOT TILL YOU GIVE ME A MINUTE-BY-MINUTE ACCOUNT OF YOUR WHEREABOUTS THIS AFTERNOON.


YOU'LL LET ME PASS OR I'LL KILL YOU!
SOCKKKK

THE WORD "KILL" COMES TOO NATURALLY TO YOUR LIPS LATRO!
CRAACK

I THOUGHT DR. SCHIASI INVITED ME HERE FOR A SIMPLE HOLIDAY MOUNTAIN-CLIMBING! MAYBE I WAS WRONG! MAYBE HE WAS LOOKING FOR SOMETHING YOU DIDN'T WANT HIM TO FIND!
WHAFCK!

DON'T BE A FOOL, LATRO! DROP THAT KNIFE!
YOU WILL DIE FOR THIS!

YOU ARE SO VICIOUS THAT PEOPLE WILL THINK YOU ARE GUILTY OF SOMETHING!
C-COUNTESS!
COUNTESS, EH? THE BARON HAS REASONS TO BE JEALOUS!

AN INTERESTING KNIFE, BARON. IT HAS A SPIDER CREST ON IT.
NATURALLY. THE BARON IS A MEMBER OF THE ARACHNI FAMILY. ARACHNI MEANS SPIDER.

I CARRY THE SPIDER CREST ON EVERYTHING I WEAR OR USE. MY COMPACT, MY CIGARETTE CASE, MY CLOTHING. YOU MUST VISIT ME AT THE CASTLE. YOU WILL SEE THE CREST ON EVERYTHING!
THANK YOU. I ACCEPT YOUR INVITATION!

LET'S HOPE YOU HAVE MORE LUCK THAN THAT UNFORTUNATE DR. SCHIASI. I HEARD ABOUT HIS DREADFUL ACCIDENT, TERRIBLE, ISN'T IT?
FROM THE SPIDER'S POINT OF VIEW, NO. FROM MY POINT OF VIEW...I SHALL NOT REST TILL I HAVE VENGEANCE FOR HIS MURDER!

VENGEANCE? YOU SPEAK AS IF HUMAN BEINGS, NOT SPIDERS, ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THESE DEATHS! ONLY HUMANS MURDER...NOT ANIMALS!
BEASTS EXIST, MY COUNTESS...WHO ARE NEITHER ANIMAL NOR HUMAN. THEY KILL NOT FOR GAME, AS THE JUNGLE BEAST DOES ...BUT FOR EVIL!

SUDDENLY!
HELP! T-THOSE BIRDS! THEY ATTACK ME!
I NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS! THESE MOUTAIN BIRDS NEVER ATTACK HUMAN BEINGS!

THEY'RE GONE! HOW STRANGE! IT'S AS IF YOU WERE THEIR NATURAL PREY!
IF I WERE A SPIDER, I COULD UNDERSTAND ...BUT LOOK AT ME!

WHY SHOULD A BIRD THINK I WAS FAIR GAME?
ANIMALS HAVE INSTINCTS FAR DEEPER THAN MAN'S! AS YOU SAY, COUNTESS IT'S A MYSTERY!

THE FOLLOWING MORNING AS DR. WEIR TOOK THE PATH TO CASTLE ARACHNI...
STRANGE PEOPLE THOSE ARACHNI'S! THEY TRACE THEIR LINEAGE BACK TO MEDIEVAL AGES... THE AGE OF WITCHCRAFT! EVEN TOOK THEIR FAMILY NAME FROM THE SPIDER THAT INFESTED THE VALLEY.

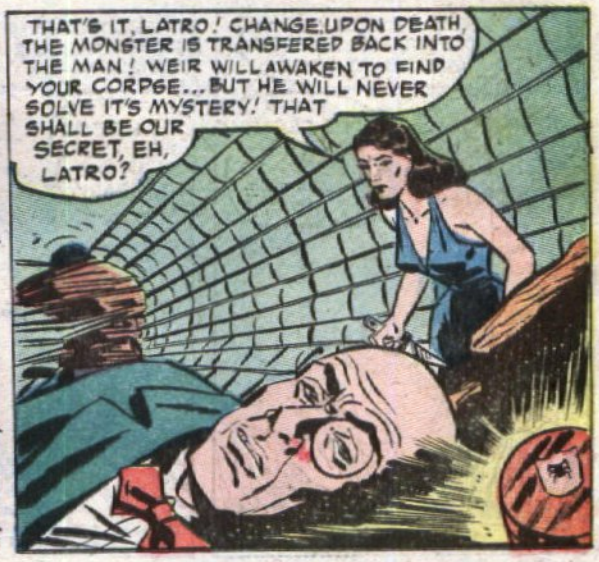
THOSE MEDIVAL FAMILIES WERE JUST AS SUPERSTITIOUS AS SAVAGES! THEY HAD ANIMALS FETISHES! SOME WORSHIPPED UNICORNS, SOME CROCODILE AND SNAKES. THE ARACHNIS MIGHT HAVE DEVELOPED A SPIDER CULT THAT...(GASP!) ...A WEB!

I-I CAN'T BREATH... THE PURPLE CLAW... I'LL USE IT AS I DID YESTERDAY... (GASP!) IT'S GONE I'VE LOST THE PURPLE CLAW!

A MINUTE PASSES! A GHASTLY, SUFFOCATING MINUTE! WEIR COLLAPSES GASPING FOR BREATH...
IT'S THE END! I'M TRAPPED! I'LL NEVER GET OUT! UURGHHHHH!

THE MONSTER APPROACHES HIS PREY. BUT AS HE DOES...
LATRO! YOUR STUPID JEALOUSIES HAVE INTERFERED WITH MY PLANS FOR THE LAST TIME. YOU'VE KILLED EVERY MAN WHO LOOKED AT ME!

I'M GETTING RID OF YOU ONCE AND FOR ALL! DIE, LATRO... DIE!
NO! NO— N— EEAAAAAAAAA!


THAT'S IT, LATRO! CHANGE UPON DEATH THE MONSTER IS TRANSFERED BACK INTO THE MAN! WEIR WILL AWAKEN TO FIND YOUR CORPSE... BUT HE WILL NEVER SOLVE IT'S MYSTERY! THAT SHALL BE OUR SECRET, EH, LATRO?

I HAVE WAITED LONG FOR THE EMBRACE OF A MAN. THIS TIME I SHALL NOT BE CHEATED BY A JEALOUS FOOL WHO IMAGINES HE IS IN LOVE WITH ME! I AM A WOMAN, I SHALL LOVE LIKE A WOMAN...

BUT WHEN WEIR COMES TO...
LATRO... DEAD! STABBED TO DEATH! BUT WHO KILLED HIM WHO SLASHED THE WEB? WHO (GASP) THE COMPACT... THERE'S A SPIDER CREST ON IT...!

A HALF HOUR LATER IN THE UPPER CHAMBER OF THE ARACHNI CASTLE.
AT LAST! THE COUNTESS ARACHNI WHO DWELLS ALONE IN THIS STONE PRISON HAS A GUEST. A HANDSOME GUEST!
YOUR COMPACT, COUNTESS! I FOUND IT BESIDE THE CORPSE OF LATRO. I'LL EXCHANGE IT FOR SOMETHING OF MINE!

THE PURPLE CLAW! YOU STOLE IT FROM ME, WHEN I PROTECTED YOU FROM THE BIRDS! THERE WAS ONLY ONE WAY YOU COULD APPRECIATE ITS VALUE.. ITS MAGIC...! YOU SAW IT DESTROY A WEB ON THE ROAD LEADING TO THE HOTEL!
YES! I SAW WHAT IT DID! WITHOUT THE CLAW YOU'RE DEFENCELESS! I'M TOSSING IT INTO THE MOAT!

I HAVE BROUGHT YOU HERE TO TASTE MY EMBRACE, WEIR! NOW...YOU FOOL...SINCE YOU KNOW SO MUCH... YOU SHALL TASTE MY VENOM...!
SHE IS SPINNING A WEB AROUND ME. LIKE A SPIDER!

LIKE A SPIDER! I AM A SPIDER! I CAN TRANFORM MYSELF INTO ONE AT WILL! SPIDER-SIZE OR GIANT-SIZE, LIKE THIS
I-I'VE GOT TO GET THE PURPLE CLAW...!

BRETHERN SPIDERS! I SUMMON YOU! SLAY THAT MAN! SLAY HIM!
IT'S FLOATING ON THE SURFACE OF THE MOAT!

QUICKLY BOBBING OUT FROM UNDER THE WEB, DR. WEIR DONS HIS CLAW...
IT'S HEROR ME! I'LL SNAP THE THREAD!
YIIII!
HSSS STTT

NOW TO DESTROY THOSE BLACK WIDOW SPIDERS! EVERY ONE OF THEM!
HSSSSTT

THE PURPLE CLAW IS KILLING ALL OF THEM! GOOD RIDDANCE! HEAVEN KNOWS HOW MANY MEN THEY'VE DESTROYED!
HSSSSST

BUT AS WEIR ROSE, DRIPPING WET FROM THE MOAT, HE SAW A DEAD WOMAN, BEAUTIFUL BEYOND DESCRIPTION, FLOATING IN THE WATER...
LIKE EVERYTHING EVIL...SHE IS BEAUTIFUL ONLY IN DEATH! NOW SHE WILL REMAIN CHANGELESS, ETERNALLY...AND PEACE CAN COME AT LAST TO THE VALLEY OF HORROR...THANKS TO THE PURPLE CLAW!

A PURPLE CLAW MYSTERY

THE Killer IN THE SNOW

AS BEST MAN I GIVE YOU THE BRIDE AND BRIDEGROOM, DON AND PRETA ELKINS!

AND AS MAID OF HONOR, I SAY, MAY THEY HAVE MORE YEARS OF CHAMPIONSHIP SKIING!

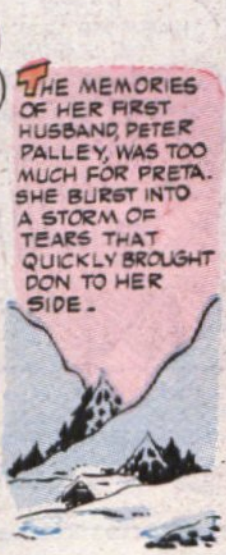
DR. JONATHAN WEIR, A GUEST AT THE WEEK-END SKIING PARTY FOR DON AND PRETA ELKINS, DISCOVERED THAT ONLY THE MAGIC POWER OF THE PURPLE CLAW WAS A MATCH AGAINST THE WHITE MURDER OF THE KILLER IN THE SNOW!

BROWN & GANTZ

PRETA, DARLING! A STARING SNOWMAN? REALLY! YOU'RE JUST TOO LOVE-HAPPY TO KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING!
YOU MUST BELIEVE ME. I SAW IT!

I WONDER WHAT PRETA DID SEE....

I BELIEVE YOU, PRETA. I THINK YOU DID SEE SOMETHING!
OH, THANK YOU, DR. WEIR. IT WAS A SNOWMAN JUST LIKE THE ONE PETER MADE BEFORE HE DIED!


THE MEMORIES OF HER FIRST HUSBAND, PETER PALLEY, WAS TOO MUCH FOR PRETA. SHE BURST INTO A STORM OF TEARS THAT QUICKLY BROUGHT DON TO HER SIDE.

PRETA AND I SHOULD NEVER HAVE COME HERE. DR. WEIR. IT BRINGS BACK TOO MANY BITTER THOUGHTS. YOU SEE IT WAS HERE IN THESE VERY MOUNTAINS THAT WE SAW PETER FALL TO HIS DEATH!

FRED, DO YOU REALIZE THAT OUTSIDE OF DR. WEIR EVERY-ONE IN THIS ROOM WAS HERE THE WEEKEND THAT PETER DIED!
YOU'RE RIGHT, AGNES. EXCEPT THAT NOBODY BUT DON AND PRETA REALLY SAW PETER FALL.

HOOOOEEEEEEEOWWWWW

DR. WEIR, I'M PLENTY SCARED! WHERE DID THIS WIND COME FROM? THERE WASN'T A BREATH OF AIR STIRRING A FEW MINUTES AGO!
WOOSHHHHHH
UNLESS I AM SADLY MISTAKEN THERE WILL BE WORK FOR THE PURPLE CLAW BEFORE THE NIGHT IS OVER.

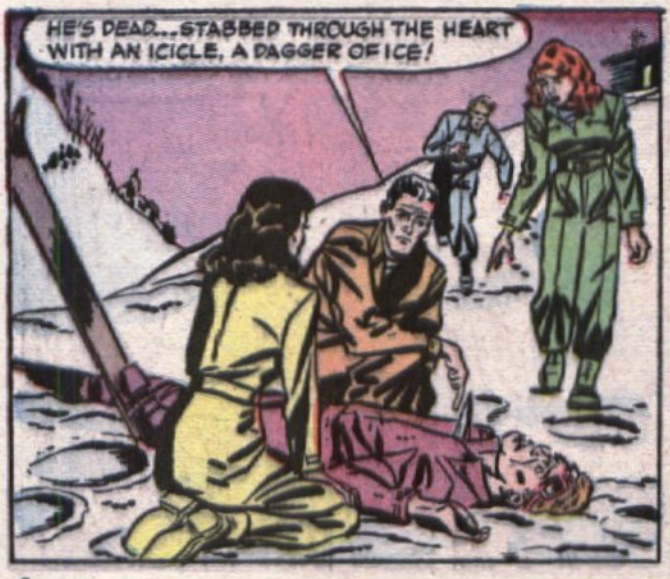
I'M LEAVING NOW WHILE THE LEAVING IS GOOD! IF THE REST OF YOU HAD ANY BRAINS YOU'D COME ALONG!
YOU'RE TALKING LIKE A FOOL, FRED GRADY.

BETTER A LIVE FOOL THAN A DEAD HUSBAND, DON. I'LL GET SOMEBODY FROM TOWN TO RETURN THESE SKIS IN THE MORNING. SO LONG!

SO FRED WOULD RATHER BE A LIVE FOOL THAN A DEAD HUSBAND! MAYBE HE'S GOT A POINT THERE, DON.
IF YOU THINK SO, WHY NOT JOIN HIM, AGNES?

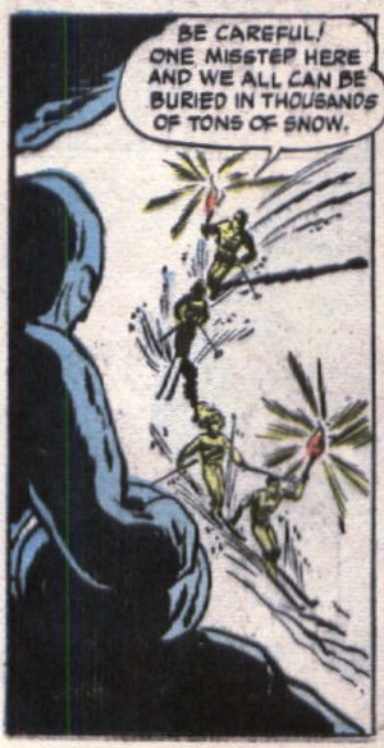
LOOK! THERE IT IS AGAIN!
IT... IT'S PRETA'S SNOWMAN AND HE'S AFTER FRED!

NO! NO! HEELp!


HE'S DEAD...STABBED THROUGH THE HEART WITH AN ICICLE, A DAGGER OF ICE!

FRED WAS RIGHT! WE MUST LEAVE NOW TOGETHER. THAT...THAT KILLER IN THE SNOW WON'T TAKE AFTER ALL OF US.

LATER
THIS IS ALL WRONG, PRETA. THERE'S TOO MUCH DANGER. I ONLY HOPE I CAN SAVE YOU ALL FROM YOUR OWN FOLLY.
MAYBE I AM WRONG, DR. WEIR. BUT I THINK IT WOULD BE A GREATER FOLLY TO STAY!


BE CAREFUL! ONE MISSTEP HERE AND WE ALL CAN BE BURIED IN THOUSANDS OF TONS OF SNOW.

LOOK! IT'S PETER—COME BACK TO HAUNT US...TO PUNISH US!

KAVROOM

THERE IS NO ESCAPE. HE'S GOING TO KILL US ALL!
IF THERE IS NO ESCAPE! THEN THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO. THAT'S FOR US TO GET HIM FIRST!

BACK AT THE LODGE
DON...DON. I'M SO AFRAID. DON'T GO FAR AWAY PLEASE!
WE WON'T, PRETA. BUT WE MUST TRACK DOWN AND DESTROY THAT SNOW KILLER!

YOU CAN STAY HERE ALONE AND WAIT FOR THE SNOWMAN TO FINISH US OFF ONE BY ONE. PRETA, BUT NOT ME! I'M NOT GOING TO LET THOSE TWO MEN OUT OF MY SIGHT.

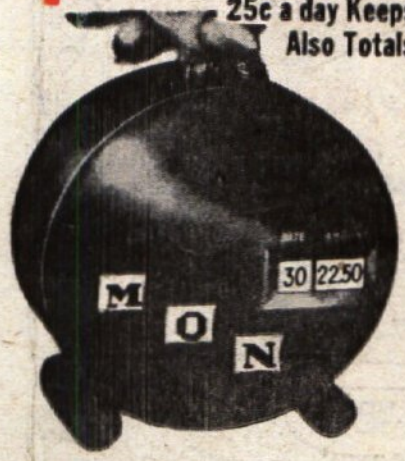
OH...OH... NO! AGNES-LOOKOUT!

WASN'T THAT PRETA CRYING OUT? SOMETHING HAS HAPPENED!
IT SURE HAS! LOOK DOWN THERE! COME ON!

LET ME GO... OH, LET ME GO! HELP! HELP!

$SAVE $100.00 Quickly and Easily with this Automatic DATE & AMOUNT BANK

25c a day Keeps Calendar Up-to-date Also Totals Amount Saved!



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ANYONE CAN SELL famous Hoover Uniforms for beauty shops, waitresses, nurses, doctors, others. All popular miracle fabrics–nylon, dacron, orlon. Exclusive styles, top quality. Big cash income now, real future. Equipment FREE. State your age. HOOVER, Dept. A-120, New York 11, N. Y.

MAKE MONEY! Show friends sensational $1.00 Greeting Card Assortment for birthdays, anniversaries, get-well, etc. A year's supply for average family. Also exciting All-in-Fun comic assortment. Samples on approval. Wallace Brown, 225 Fifth Ave., Dept. K-96, New York 10, N. Y.

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AMAZING EXTRA MONEY PLAN gives you gorgeous dress without penny cost. Rush name today, with dress size, HARFORD, Dept. L-2180, Cincinnati 25, Ohio.

SPARE TIME MONEY plus NEW CAR as encouragement bonus. Amazing 60 gauge nylons, 3 pr. guaranteed 3 mos. Write to WILKNIT, A-7741 Midway, Greenfield, O.

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GET EXTRA SPENDING MONEY quick and easy, in spare time! Show neighbors gorgeous new greeting card assortments. Year's supply for birthdays, all occasions, at bargain. Everybody buys. Pays you big profits. Experience unnecessary. FREE Stationery Samples; Assortments on approval. STUART GREETINGS, 325 Randolph St., Dept. 607, Chicago 6, Ill.

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Call the Beautiful Wild Birds to you and make Pets of them

Complete Bird House and Bird Care Station only $1

Plus FREE — Bird Caller, Bird Food, Bird Book, and Unbreakable record of 18 true imitations of bird calls and songs.

Whether you live in the City or Country, you can enjoy the thrill of the pioneers and naturalists. They love to watch the birds of the wild making their homes and raising their children. They learn to imitate their songs and calls. So can you.

Now for the first time ever, you can get bird house, bird bath, feeding station, all made of rust-proof sheet aluminum, decorated so that the birds will love to use them . . . *plus*. Free bird food, Easy to use bird caller, Bird finder book and the *unbreakable vinyl hi-fidelity record of 18 bird calls and songs* . . . all for the amazing price of $1.00.

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10 DAY FREE TRIAL: Just fill in the coupon below. We will rush your whole outfit by return together with the free bird caller, record, bird food, and bird book. Set it up and use it for 10 days. If you are not delighted, just return the aluminum house, feeder and bird bath for a refund of the complete purchase price. And keep all the rest as a gift from us. But rush now and be the first in your neighborhood to have this wonderful outfit.

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You get all this:
- Sheet aluminum bird house, in natural colors
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BIRD FRIENDS OF AMERICA, Dept. # 948
35 Wilbur St., Lynbrook, New York

Rush me my complete Bird House, Care Station Bird Book, Record and Caller for only $1.00. If I am not 100% delighted I may return the outfit after 10 days free trial, for prompt refund of the full purchase price.

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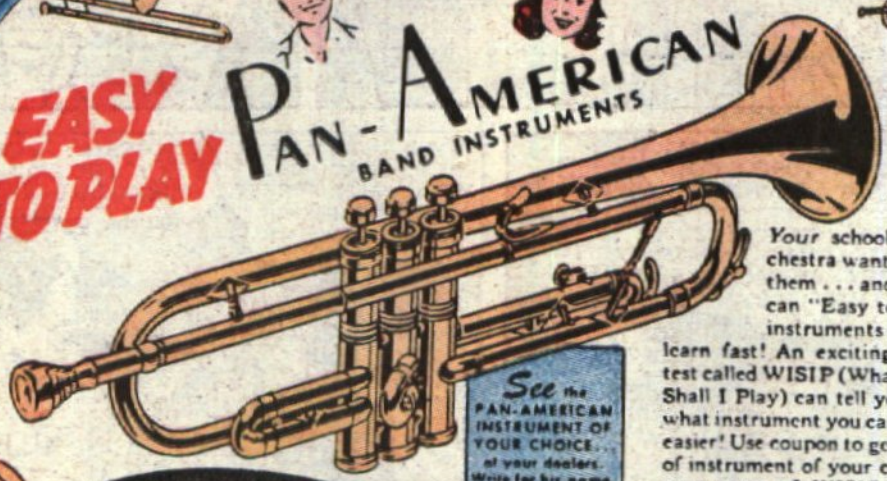

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AGNES! AGNES! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? WHY DON'T YOU ANSWER?
YOU'LL FIND OUT SOON ENOUGH, DON!

SHE'S DEAD... FROZEN SOLID!
FIRST A DAGGER OF ICE—NOW, THIS... THE SNOWMAN KILLS WITH HIS OWN ELEMENTS!

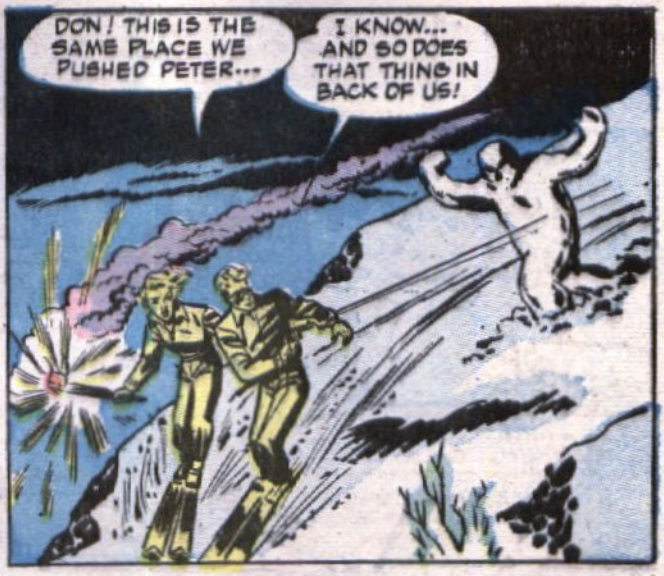
I SHALL GO OUT ALONE AND MEET THE SNOWMAN FACE TO FACE. EITHER HE OR THE PURPLE CLAW SHALL WIN!
IT'S NO USE DR. WEIR. WE'RE DOOMED!

ONLY PETER STOOD BETWEEN DON AND ME, DR. WEIR—SO WE KILLED HIM! IT WAS SO EASY. WE PUSHED HIM OVER THE SIDE OF THE CLIFF AND LEFT HIM TO FREEZE TO DEATH! AGNES, FRED, THE OTHERS... KNEW OR GUESSED BUT DID NOTHING ABOUT IT!
TO CONDONE MURDER, PRETA, IS PRACTICALLY AS BAD AS COMMITTING IT!

YOU'RE TALKING TOO MUCH PRETA! WE DON'T NEED ANY PURPLE CLAW TO HELP US... NOT AS LONG AS WE'VE GOT A GUN!
YES...YES DON! YOU'RE RIGHT! LET'S GO NOW AND NEVER COME BACK TO THIS HORRIBLE PLACE!

IF YOU KNOW WHAT IS GOOD FOR YOU DR. WEIR, YOU'LL FORGET ALL YOU'VE HEARD OR SEEN TONIGHT.
DON, PRETA! DON'T YOU SEE YOU'RE SKIING TO YOUR DOOM? DON'T GO!

IF I CAN ONLY SAVE THEM FROM THEMSELVES. FOR THE EVIL THEY DID, THEY MUST BE PUNISHED... BUT NOT BY THE KILLER IN THE SNOW!


DON! THIS IS THE SAME PLACE WE PUSHED PETER...
I KNOW... AND SO DOES THAT THING IN BACK OF US!

SAVE US HELP!
OOOOH...HHH!

I'M NOT AFRAID OF YOU! YOU'RE ONLY A CREATURE OF ICE AND SNOW AND THE PURPLE CLAW WILL BURN AND SEAR YOU—TURNING YOU BACK TO WATER!

ON A FLASH OF PURPLE FLAME THE SNOWMAN VANISHES.... FOREVER!

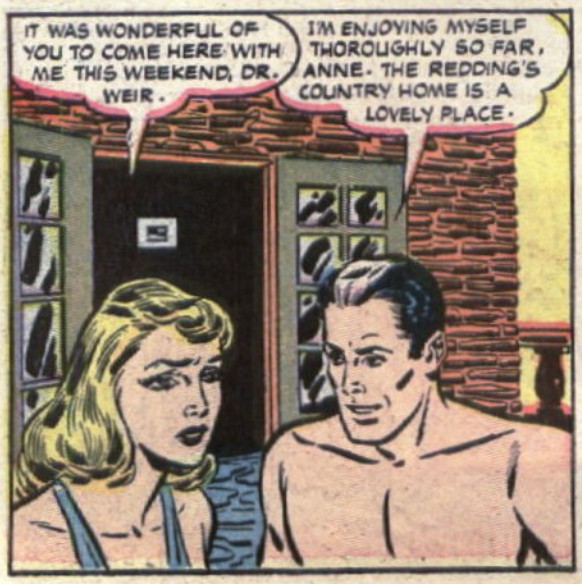
NOW PETER PALLEY'S REVENGE IS COMPLETE! PRETA HIS WIFE, AND DON, HIS BEST FRIEND—BOTH OF WHOM BETRAYED HIM ARE WITH HIM NOW FOR ETERNITY IN A TOMB OF ICE!
THE END

A PURPLE CLAW MYSTERY

The Serpent Strikes

TO LOVELY ANNE WINDOM, TED REDDING'S MARRIAGE TO THE EXOTIC JUNGLE-BORN LEERA BROUGHT NIGHTMARES OF SNAKES AS WELL AS HEARTBREAK. ANNE THOUGHT THE ANSWER LAY IN MODERN PYSCHIATRY, BUT DR. JONATHAN WEIR, THE WEARER OF THE PURPLE CLAW, KNEW DIFFERENTLY. VOODOO AND BLACK MAGIC HAD BROUGHT THE REPTILES WRITHING, CRAWLING THROUGH ANNE'S TORMENTED NIGHTS!

BROWN GANTZ



HEY, YOU TWO, TOO LAZY TO JOIN US?
PEPHAPS ANNE WAS TOO BUSY TALKING ABOUT SNAKES TO THE SO NICE AND SYMPATHETIC DR. WEIR TO THINK ABOUT US.

LEERA, THAT'S NOT FAIR!
SO? MAYBE THEN YOU TRY TO MAKE TED JEALOUS WITH YOUR FOOLISH FANTASIES!

GIRLS WILL BE GIRLS, DR. WEIR. YOU KNOW HOW IT IS — GUESS WE'D ALL BETTER GET DRESSED FOR DINNER. SEE YOU LATER.

I'VE TRIED TO BE FRIENDS WITH LEERA. TED'S FOLKS DON'T LIKE HER, YOU SEE. THEY NEVER COME HERE ANYMORE.
AND LEERA, KNOWING THAT, RESENTS YOU BECAUSE YOU WERE THE PARENTS' CHOICE FOR TED'S WIFE.

I CAN NEVER COME HERE AGAIN, BUT FOR TED'S SAKE I WON'T LEAVE UNTIL THE WEEKEND'S OVER. I'M GOING IN TO CHANGE NOW. HOW ABOUT YOU?
IN A MOMENT, ANNE!

I'M LOOKING FOR ANNE, DR. WEIR. TED INSISTS I APOLOGIZE TO HER... BUT HAVE YOU LOST ANYTHING?
NOT A THING, LEERA. THINK I'LL TAKE A QUICK DIVE.

WEIR HAD BEEN TRUTHFUL — HE HADN'T LOST ANYTHING. BUT WHAT HE DIDN'T SAY WAS THAT HE HAD FOUND SOMETHING — THE LOATHSOME SMEAR OF A SNAKE BY THE SIDE OF THE POOL!

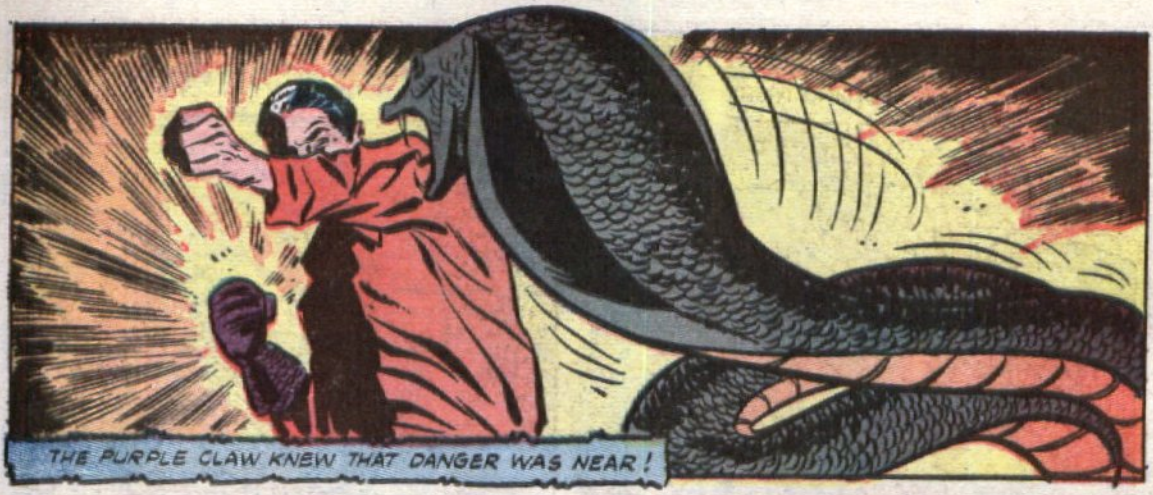
LATE THAT NIGHT, A HYSTERICAL CRY FROM ANNE'S ROOM AWAKENS WEIR.

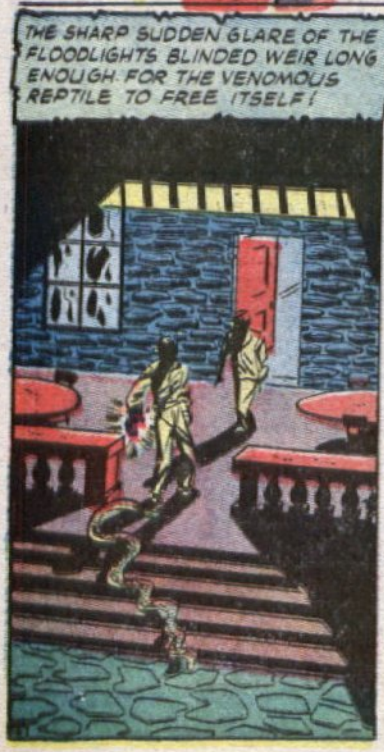
I'M NOT HAVING FOOLISH FANTASIES. THERE WAS A SNAKE IN HERE. A HUGE, DREADFUL, HOODED THING!

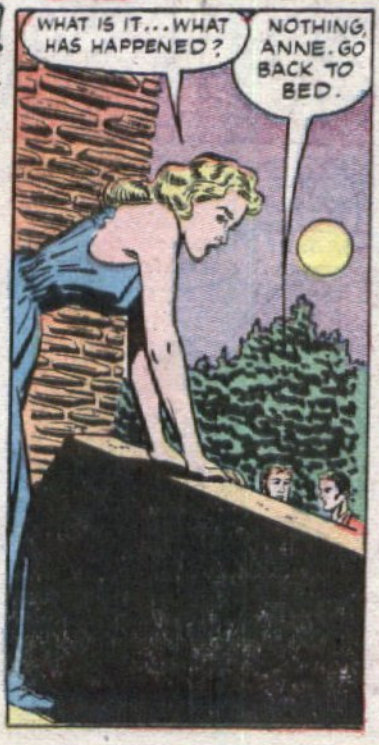
THE SAME LOATHSOME SMEAR I SAW BY THE POOL—HERE ON THE FLOOR OF THE BALCONY.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND THESE NIGHTMARES! ANNE ALWAYS WAS SO STABLE—SO SENSIBLE!
DISAPPOINTMENT IN LOVE CAN DO STRANGE THINGS, TED.

I COULDN'T TELL TED THAT I SUSPECT IT'S NOT DISAPPOINTMENT IN LOVE, BUT THE GREATER FEAR OF LOSING IT THAT IS CAUSING ANNE'S NIGHTMARES. IT'S TIME NOW FOR THE PURPLE CLAW TO ACT!


THE PURPLE CLAW KNEW THAT DANGER WAS NEAR!


THE SHARP SUDDEN GLARE OF THE FLOODLIGHTS BLINDED WEIR LONG ENOUGH FOR THE VENOMOUS REPTILE TO FREE ITSELF!


WHAT IS IT...WHAT HAS HAPPENED?
NOTHING, ANNE. GO BACK TO BED.

YOU WERE RIGHT, TED NOT TO FRIGHTEN ANNE. SHE MUSTN'T KNOW I'VE PROVEN HER DREAMS OF SNAKES NO NIGHTMARE, BUT THE TRUTH.

THE NEXT DAY—
LEERA, DARLING, YOU SLEPT THROUGH A THRILLING NIGHT!
DID I? I'M AFRAID I SLEPT VERY SOUNDLY.

I'M SORRY I MISSED ALL THE EXCITEMENT, BUT IT'S JUST AS WELL. I THINK I'M CATCHING COLD. MY THROAT IS SO SORE I CAN HARDLY SWALLOW!

I'LL BE GLAD TO EXAMINE YOUR THROAT AND PRESCRIBE A REMEDY FOR YOU.
OH NO, THANK YOU. I'LL BE ALL RIGHT!

DARLING, YOUR HAND FEELS SO COLD AND CLAMMY. WHY DON'T YOU LET WEIR EXAMINE YOU. AFTER ALL, HE IS A DOCTOR!
YES, LEERA. WHY NOT?

WHAT ARE ALL OF YOU TRYING TO DO? LET GO OF ME!
LEERA, SWEETHEART, WE ONLY WANT TO HELP YOU. PLEASE BE REASONABLE.

DON'T YOU DARE TOUCH ME!
WHY, LEERA, ONE WOULD THINK YOU HAD SOMETHING TO HIDE. YOU HAVEN'T, HAVE YOU?

FOOL! YOU SHALL DIE FOR THIS!

I'VE MADE A BITTER ENEMY OF LEERA, FOR SHE KNOWS NOW THAT I KNOW THE TRUTH. SHE IS A PYSILI, ONE OF THE SNAKE CLAN OF ANCIENT AFRICA!

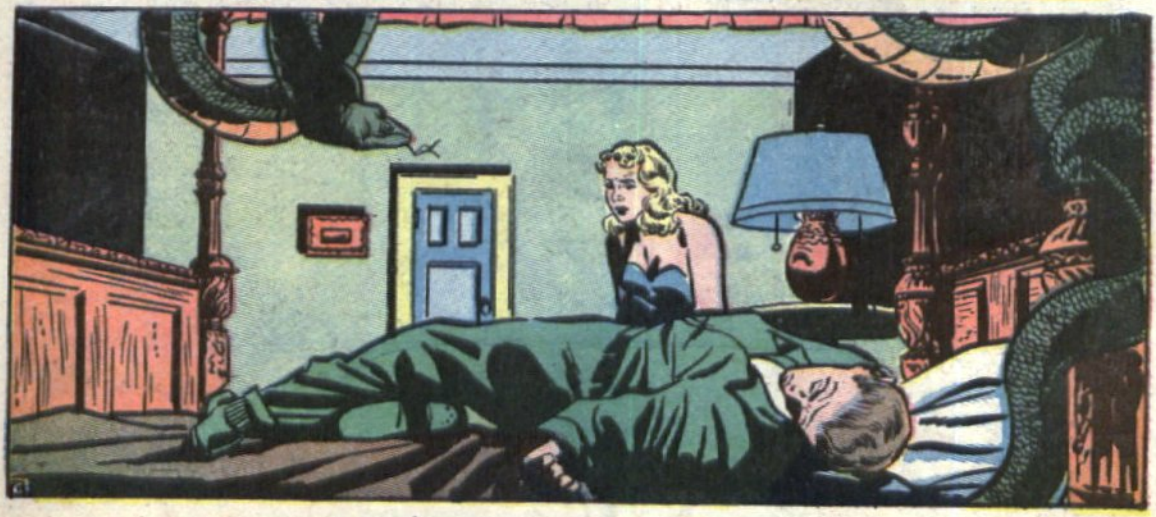
ALL THAT DAY, FROM BREAKFAST TO DINNER, LEERA HAD KEPT TO HER ROOM —
DARLING, I'VE BROUGHT YOU SOMETHING TO EAT... LEERA, WHERE ARE YOU?

AIEEEEEEE

LOOK — IT'S TED!
HE'S BEEN BITTEN BY A SNAKE! YOUR NIGHTMARE CAME TO LIFE, ANNE, BUT ATTACKED TED NOT YOU

AND THAT'S WHAT I MUST FIND OUT. WHY WAS TED BITTEN AND NOT ANNE? ONLY THE PURPLE CLAW CAN GIVE ME THE ANSWER.

I'VE DONE ALL I CAN FOR HIM. NOW HE MUST BE QUIET. LET NO ONE ENTER THIS ROOM UNTIL I RETURN. ABOVE ALL, LEERA.
I...I DON'T UNDERSTAND, BUT I'LL DO WHATEVER YOU SAY!



DR. WEIR, COME QUICKLY, I DON'T KNOW WHERE LEERA CAME FROM, BUT SUDDENLY SHE WAS THERE, AND SHE FORCED ME OUT OF THE ROOM. SHE'S ALL ALONE WITH TED.

STOP THAT!
I'M SUCKING THE POISON OUT OF HIM TO SAVE HIS LIFE. WE DO THIS MANY TIMES IN MY FAMILY.

YOU'RE NOT INTERESTED IN HIS LIFE — YOU WANT HIS SOUL. YOU WANT TO MAKE SURE HE'LL NEVER LEAVE YOU!

YOU THINK YOU'VE WON. YOU AND YOUR PURPLE CLAW. BUT YOU HAVEN'T! SOON TED AND I WILL BE ONE — TRULY THE SAME!

DR. WEIR! TED'S DELIRIOUS! OH, WHAT HAS SHE DONE TO HIM?

TED HAD BEEN TURNED INTO A WERESNAKE, AS LEERA WAS HERSELF. NOW THE PURPLE CLAW WAS THE ONLY THING THAT COULD SAVE HIM! THAT COULD EXORCISE THE WEIRD AND TERRIBLE RESULT OF A THOUSAND YEARS OF JUNGLE WITCHCRAFT AND SORCERY FROM HIS SOUL!

HOUR AFTER HOUR, THE ORDEAL WENT ON, THROUGH INCONCEIVABLE HORROR, AND INCREDIBLE TERROR, BUT WIER DID NOT FALTER. HE KNEW THAT THE PURPLE CLAW WAS HIS TALISMAN AND HIS SHIELD!

TED IS SAFE NOW. NO MORE HARM CAN COME TO HIM.
THANK HEAVEN!

HELP..HELP!

LEERA WAS A WERESNAKE, ONE OF THOSE CREATURES FROM THE UNKNOWN THAT COULD CHANGE FROM HUMAN TO REPTILE AT WILL. MORE SERPENT THAN HUMAN, SHE WANTED TO KILL YOU AND KEEP TED FOREVER BE-WITCHED.

ANNE...ANNE, DARLING, WHERE ARE YOU?
HERE, WITH YOU. FOREVER AND EVER, SWEETHEART.

THEY'LL BE HAPPY NOW! WITH LEERA'S DEATH A GREAT AND STRANGE EVIL HAS BEEN LIFTED FROM ALL OUR LIVES— THANKS TO THE PURPLE CLAW!

HE Walks BY Night

BUT HERMAN BLAKE, PROFESSOR OF HINDU PHILOSOPHY AT TOLGATE UNIVERSITY, ANSWERS HIS WIFE ONLY WITH A BROODING SILENCE...

MRS. BLAKE LOOKS DEEP INTO THE DOCTOR'S EYES... THE DOCTOR'S EYES... THAT BURN WITH **GREED** AND **HYPNOTIC POWER!**

YOU'RE A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN, MRS. BLAKE. YOU ARE MUCH YOUNGER THAN YOUR HUSBAND. YOU HAVE EVERYTHING TO LIVE FOR...

YOU HEARD YOUR HUSBAND. **HE DOESN'T WANT TO BE CURED.** HE'S A RECLUSE... TIED UP IN HIS STUDIES... HINDU PHILOSOPHY IS ALL HE CARES FOR...

HE WILL WALK OFF THAT ROOF ONE NIGHT, MRS. BLAKE. YOU CAN'T STOP HIM... BUT YOU **CAN** DO SOMETHING ELSE...

YOU CAN INSURE HIM HEAVILY!

SHE WILL DO WHAT I SAID. SHE WON'T REMEMBER THAT **I** INSTRUCTED HER... BUT SHE WILL DO WHAT I SAID. AND ONCE THE PROFESSOR IS DEAD, AND SHE HAS COLLECTED THE INSURANCE MONEY AND IS ALONE— I WILL COME CALLING AGAIN...

THE NEXT DAY—

YOU WON'T REGRET THIS, MRS. BLAKE. YOU COULDN'T GET A BETTER POLICY ON YOUR HUSBAND'S LIFE...

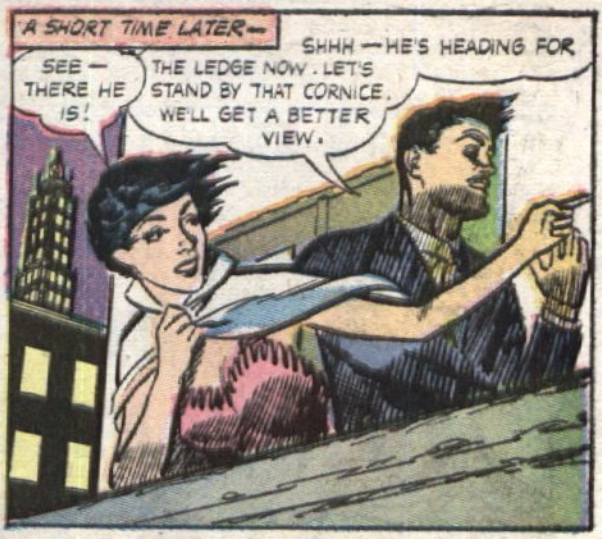
DR. MORGAN... THIS IS MRS. BLAKE. I THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE TO KNOW THAT I GOT THE POLICY TODAY. AND IT HAS A **DOUBLE INDEMNITY** CLAUSE...

MMM— THE HYPNOSIS COULDN'T HAVE BEEN COMPLETE. SHE **REMEMBERS** MY TELLING HER ABOUT THE POLICY... THAT MEANS SHE **WANTS** HER HUSBAND TO DIE —AND SHE'S ACCEPTED **ME** AS A PARTNER...

I'M GLAD YOU CALLED, MRS. BLAKE! I THINK YOU WERE VERY WISE!

MEANWHILE, AT THE UNIVERSITY, UNAWARE OF HOW HIS WIFE AND THE DOCTOR ARE PLOTTING TO PROFIT BY HIS DEATH, PROF. HERMAN BLAKE LECTURES CALMLY...

WE DO NOT FULLY UNDERSTAND YOGA. ALL WE KNOW IS THAT IT ENABLES IT'S PRACTITIONERS TO DEFY ALMOST ALL THE NATURAL LAWS...



FOR A BRIEF SECOND, THEIR SCREAMS SLASH THE NIGHT AIR! BUT THEN THERE IS A DOUBLE-THUD... AND THEY LIE CRUMPLED AND SILENT FOREVER. TOO BAD... FOR IF THEY HAD LIVED, THEY WOULD HAVE SEEN THE PROFESSOR'S OTHER FOOT LEAVE THE LEDGE!

Tell Me What You Want Money For . . . I'll HELP YOU GET ALL YOU NEED!

MR. B. J. STUART
President of Stuart Greetings, Has Helped Thousands Make Good Money!

EASY TO EARN $50 TO $150 AND MORE IN JUST YOUR SPARE TIME!

What do YOU want that money will buy? Whether it's new clothes, sporting equipment, household appliances, or anything else . . . just check the coupon. I'll show you how you can earn all the money you need, quickly and easily, taking orders for STUART Greeting Cards! And I'll send you everything you need to start earning right away.

YOU DON'T NEED EXPERIENCE!

It takes no special skill to sell a complete assortment of beautiful new Birthday and other Greeting Cards—a generous supply for year 'round use—for just $1.00. This exciting bargain really *sells itself*. All you do is show it to friends and neighbors and you keep up to HALF the price as your cash profit! Say you want anything that costs $50.00. Sell only 100 boxes and you've got the money! Folks will also want our exciting new Gift Items, Stationery, Gift Wrappings and the other fast-sellers in our big line. They help you earn still more easy money!

GET MONEY-MAKING KIT ON FREE TRIAL!

See for yourself how easy it is to get the money for anything you want. Check the coupon and mail it now. I'll send you a complete kit of samples including fast-selling assortments on FREE TRIAL and full facts on how to reach your goal fast. Don't delay. Act TODAY!

SEE HOW WELL OTHERS HAVE DONE!

This is the easiest and most dignified way to earn money for Scout camp, Christmas presents and spending money in general. *P.E., New York*

I made $21.75 in approximately 3 hours one afternoon. Everyone just loves these beautiful greeting cards and it's so easy to show and sell them. *C.R.P., North Carolina*

STUART GREETINGS, INC.
325 W. Randolph St., Dept. 614, Chicago 6, Ill.

RUSH COUPON FOR FREE TRIAL KIT!

Mr. B. J. Stuart, STUART GREETINGS
325 W. Randolph St., Dept. 614, Chicago 6, Ill.

Dear Mr. Stuart: I've checked off what I want money for:

- ☐ Sporting Equipment
- ☐ New Clothes
- ☐ Team Uniforms
- ☐ Electric Toaster
- ☐ Portable Radio
- ☐ .....

Please rush full facts on how to make the money, and sample kit of assortments ON FREE TRIAL.

Name.....

Address.....

City & Zone..... State.....

(If for a club, give its name below.)

.....

FREE!

WHILE THEY LAST!

10 "HITLER HEADS"

"LEST WE FORGET THE MASTER VILLIAN OF ALL TIME"

10 Unusual Stamps Showing Evil Dictator

ALL DIFFERENT! GETTING HARDER AND HARDER TO OBTAIN

MAIL coupon at once. We'll send you this complete, fascinating set of 10 Hitler Stamps. All different. Getting scarcer all the time. Yet they are yours FREE—while they last—to secure names for our mailing list.

These valuable stamps come from four different countries, including short-lived nation of Bohemia-Moravia, Germany, Russia-Ukraine, and Russia-Ostland. All sought after. Supply limited, so don't ask for more than one collection.

FREE Advice on Stamp Collecting

In addition to the FREE Hitler Stamps, we'll also include other interesting offers for your inspection — PLUS a FREE copy of our helpful, informative "How To Collect Stamps." Prepared for us by the famous Philatelic Institute of Cambridge, it describes the lure of stamp collecting, how and where to get stamps, the honor code of the stamp collector, adventuring with postage stamps, etc.

"How To Collect Stamps" also contains expert advice on watermark varieties and other apparent duplicates; how to enjoy and profit by duplicates; how to use stamp hinges. It is illustrated with how-to pictures and contains clear, step-by-step instructions that can be of great value to you in your stamp collecting.

MAIL COUPON NOW

Be among the first to have this valuable set of Hitler Stamps. Your friends will envy you for it and want to buy the set from you. It will become one of the most prized sets of any stamp collection. But you must hurry if you want to get the 10 Hitler Stamps FREE. This special offer may have to be withdrawn soon. Rush coupon NOW with 10¢ to help cover postage and handling. *If coupon has already been clipped, send 10¢ DIRECT to:*

LITTLETON STAMP COMPANY

Dept. TPC-3, Littleton, New Hampshire

More People Get Stamps from LITTLETON than from Any Other Concern in The World

LITTLETON STAMP CO.,
DEPT. TPC-3, LITTLETON, N. H.

Send—AT NO COST TO ME—the ten Hitler stamps and the helpful, informative "How To Collect Stamps." I enclose 10¢ to help cover postage and handling.

Print Name .....

Print Address .....

City..... State.....

GET PRIZES... MAKE MONEY

I want to give you your choice of a walkie talkie, an archery set, new golden trumpet, any of the 70 BIG PRIZES in my 28-page catalog. Many prizes are given without cost, for selling just one order of 48 packs of Vegetable and Flower Seeds at 10c per pack.

NEW, GOLDEN TRUMPET. GIVEN FOR SELLING ONE ORDER.

"Uncle" Harry Bard, the man who has been helping boys and girls earn PRIZES and extra cash for 35 years.

I'll Give You a Watch, Air Rifle, Uke, Camera or Any of My 70 BIG PRIZES

Just for Selling American Seeds to your Family, Friends and Neighbors

BE FIRST IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Everybody wants American Seeds—they're fresh and ready to grow. You'll sell them quickly, to your family, friends and neighbors and get your prize at once.

Thousands of boys and girls have been earning prizes this easy way for 35 years. Paste coupon on postcard or mail in envelope for your order of American Seeds. When sold, send us the money and choose your prize. Or, keep $1.60 in cash for each 48-pack order you sell. *SEND NO MONEY, I TRUST YOU.*

AMERICAN SEED CO.
Dept. 418, Lancaster, Pa.

Professional Type Junior Archery Set

Famous Ben Pearson make. Has a 54-inch hardwood bow, 4 feathered arrows, target face, instructions. Sell one order of American Seeds plus 75c.

DICK TRACY CAMERA

Camera has telescopic sight and fixed focus. Comes complete with carrying case. Sell one order.

BOYS! GIRLS! WRIST WATCHES
Gold-plated Girl's Bracelet Watch. Sell one order plus $2.50. Boy's Radium Dial Watch. Sell one order plus $1.50.

JET PLANE

Attach wings, light fuse, away it goes. Flies 500 feet high. Given for selling just one order.

FULL SIZE UKULELE plus **ARTHUR GODFREY'S** famous "push button" player. Both given for one order plus 50c.

GIRLS' OR LADIES' SHOULDER STRAP BAG
Available in Red, Green, Navy Blue or Brown. Sell one order.

JUNIOR SPORTS KIT
Complete kit for younger boys and girls. Basketball, baseball, football, whistle! Sell one order.

ELECTRONIC WALKIE TALKIE

Remco's complete 2-way talking system. Just string out the wire—start talking. No batteries needed. Sell one order of American Seeds.

WIN A Schwinn BICYCLE

EXTRA $1,500 IN GRAND PRIZE AWARDS

1st Prize $250 | 2nd Prize $150 | 3rd Prize $100

PLUS 20 DELUXE Schwinn BICYCLES

Everyone selling American Seeds is eligible to win GRAND PRIZE AWARDS. Remember, they are in addition to your regular prizes and cash! Coupon brings your first order and complete facts! SEND NO MONEY—we trust you. Paste coupon on postcard or mail in envelope today

HEY FELLOWS!
DAISY'S RED RYDER COWBOY CARBINE
A fast-shooting 800 shot Air Rifle. Sell one order plus $2.00.

MAIL THIS COUPON Today

AMERICAN SEED CO.
Dept. 418, Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Please send me your BIG PRIZE BOOK and one order of 48 packs of Vegetable and Flower Seeds. I will resell them at 10c a pack, send you the money, and choose my prize.

Name_____

Address_____

Town_____

State_____

MAIL THIS COUPON... SELL AMERICAN SEEDS AND EARN PRIZES LIKE THESE